

HONORING JOHN BRADLEY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special person, Mr. John Bradley, of Bath County, Kentucky.

Mr. Bradley volunteered to serve in the United States Army and began basic training August 4, 1948. He trained in Food Service School. He served at Fort Knox and Yokohama, Japan before being sent to Pusan, South Korea in 1950. His unit later moved northward to Seoul, where he oversaw the field kitchen, feeding 500 soldiers. Gunfire was constant, both day and night.

Mr. Bradley's time of service was extended for 9 months. While he was serving, his mother died and his daughter was born. He was discharged on May 10, 1952 and returned home to meet his 2-year-old daughter for the first time.

During his time in Korea, Mr. Bradley was awarded the Korean War Occupation Medal, five Bronze Stars, a Merit Unit Citation, a Good Conduct Medal, and the Korean Service Medal. Upon returning home, Mr. Bradley farmed and provided for his family. He is an active member of his community. Mr. Bradley and his wife Edith have been married over 68 years.

Mr. Bradley and so many other men and women volunteered to serve our great nation in the United States military. His sacrifice is appreciated by a grateful nation. Mr. Bradley is truly an American patriot. I am honored to recognize Mr. John Bradley before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSHELLE HARGUS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Joshelle Hargus of Aurora has just been named one of the distinguished finalists in Missouri by The 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Hargus is being recognized for being the creator of "Joshelle's Funky Flip Flops," making more than 500 pairs of handmade flip flops since 2008 and using her earnings from her sales to buy shoes and clothes for 100 kids in need. Inspired to help by a kindergarten classmate's only pair of torn-up shoes, Ms. Hargus has gone on to sell her flip flops at craft shows and spread the word about her cause through events and media appearances.

It's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. Young volunteers like Ms. Hargus are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 22 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 115,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Hargus should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I wish Ms. Hargus luck with all her future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this momentous achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH COMMENCEMENT OF SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on June 1st, I had the honor to address Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) class of 2017 as their commencement speaker. In my speech below, I explained to the students, faculty, and families assembled that a quality education and working together toward a common purpose, you can accomplish great outcomes even in challenging moments. I want to thank President John B. Cook for his gracious introduction and commend him on his outstanding leadership as STCC celebrates their 50th anniversary. I also want to particularly recognize the over 1000 students of the graduation class of 2017 on completing this important step in their education. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

"Good evening President Cook, parents, friends and guests. And of course Springfield Technical Community College class of 2017. Or as you are affectionately known in our community in the highest regard—STCC. We define community as a place where no one is to be abandoned and no one is to be left behind.

I am honored to have been chosen to deliver the commencement address for STCC's 50th commencement—or as your neighbors on Federal Street, Merriam-Webster, would say, your 'quinquagenarian.'

The story of STCC begins with the decision of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to close the Springfield Armory. In history, it was known as the arsenal at Springfield. Established by General George Washington and administered by his trusted aide General Henry Knox. The college is located on at least three historic sites—the Knox Trail, Ben Franklin's mail route, and the site of Daniel Shays Rebellion which helped bring about the establishment of the United States Constitution, of which the convening is 230 years old as of last Thursday.

However, when Secretary McNamara announced his decision to close the Armory, he

waived off the emotion and sentiments of the day and stood firm in his determination. Consternation, and some even predicted, calamity, would be the result of the Secretary's decision.

A sense of despair settled in with the loss of hundreds of manufacturing jobs. A polarizing debate began over whether or not to use the site in an attempt to secure a different commercial purpose or to use the site for education. Today, coincidentally, both missions have been accomplished. A reminder, once again, that in every crisis there is opportunity.

The dream began with the vision of Edmund Garvey, who had been the principal of Springfield Trade High School. A decision was reached to build an addition to Trade High School, which would be called Springfield Technical Institute. Edmund Garvey's concept would be championed by other notables in our community including then-Springfield Mayor Charles V. Ryan (who actually handed me my high school diploma), Joseph Deliso, a prominent titan of industry, and Representative Anthony M. Scibelli, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Refusing to be turned back by the usual voices and forces of pessimism and doubt, with alacrity and unyielding determination, they created the only technical community college in Massachusetts. Recall that it was also another native son of Springfield, Governor Foster Furcolo (whose father's doctor's offices still stand on south Main Street) to create the community college system in Massachusetts.

This evening, we acknowledge their conceptualization. How simple but how important—provide education to students in the community so that they might see beyond themselves and give back to humanity.

They predicted the best way to accomplish that goal was to provide a quality education that can translate into opportunity and the dignity that comes with a good job. And not just any job—one that supports our security, our healthcare, our infrastructure, and our social needs.

Although their focus was to create a technical community college, they did something else along the way: they knew how to get a big idea accomplished.

Opportunity is still the theme that is much woven into the fabric of this college's culture. The grounds the community college stands on today has been part of our community for more than two centuries, where it once housed soldiers, guardsman and industrial might. Today it is home to optimism and determination.

There were strong disagreements at the time among community members as to what to do with this historic site. Persistence, patience and positivity was the foundation of STCC's birth.

In hindsight, the founder's unwavering courage was both warranted and wise. Compromises were reached and with the help of Congressman Edward P. Boland, my predecessor, the decision was made to establish next to the Community College a national historic site, "The Springfield Armory" which today is visited by tens of thousands of people. It is the home to the famous gun rack immortalized in Longfellow's poem.

This 50th anniversary is a great example of how we work with our colleagues, community leaders and peers to accomplish extraordinary outcomes that help to lift the clouds of despair. Much of this was accomplished in the